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## NOTES AND NEWS

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Superintendent Edwin G. Cooley of Chicago was elected president of the National Educational Association at the meeting in Los Angeles.

On the motion of President Baker of the University of Colorado, it was voted that a committee be appointed to consider the project of establishing a National University. The names of the members of the committee have not yet been announced.

Soon after the spring election in Chicago last April the newly elected Republican, Mayor Busse, largely reconstituted the school board by the dismissal or forced resignation of several members. The reasons assigned were that these members were introducing turmoil into the educational system and giving an unsound financial administration. It was not generally considered that these were the real reasons. Some considered that the more fundamental motive was to rid the board of "reformers" and "faddists" and restore it to the "sane" control of business men. Others considered that the more fundamental motive was to make sure that certain great business interests were properly represented on the board. One act of the old board which may or may not have been one of the elements was the institution of a suit to set aside an extraordinarily favorable lease which the *Chicago Tribune* now holds of certain school property. The bill alleged that the lease was obtained through fraud, and claimed that the *Tribune's* attorney was a member of the board when the lease was made. The *Tribune* claims that it obtained the extremely favorable terms, as the result of which it now pays only about one-half as much rental as adjacent, similarly situated property, because at the time when the lease was granted it was difficult to rent property upon any terms. Whichever theory is true, the result is the same so far as the schools are concerned, namely that the *Tribune* gains and the schools lose an amount estimated at more than three millions of dollars.

The new board has rescinded certain amendments passed by the board in the winter in accordance with the so-called "Post Report." This leaves the plan of promotion in the form in which it stood prior to December 5, 1906, that is, teachers who desire to be promoted from one group to another must present evidence of having completed five study courses of thirty-six hours each in the Normal Extension Department or in accredited institutions of learning. Those who wish to do their studying privately, or who for any other reason do not wish to use this method of promotion, may take the promotional examination as formerly provided in the rules.

The old board had adopted a measure reducing the size of the school-

## THE SCHOOL REVIEW

rooms in the new buildings, in order to permit fewer pupils per teacher. In accordance with the recommendation of President Schneider and Superintendent Cooley, the new board voted that "in view of the crowded condition of our schools and the financial condition of the Board of Education at the present time, it is unwise to adopt the smaller size schoolroom as drawn by the architect." The size of the schoolrooms will therefore remain 33 x 26. It is too early yet to assume that the board will be entirely satisfied with the policy of "cutting the garment according to the cloth," without making any effort to provide more cloth if possible for the wants of the growing child. No one would object to keeping the rooms larger if the number of pupils allowed per teacher were not likely to be controlled by it. The recent action of the Boston board was noted in our June number.

The following table gives the average number of pupils per teacher in the Chicago schools since 1893, from which it appears that there was a decrease down to 1900, and after that an increase:

### AVERAGE NUMBER OF PUPILS PER TEACHER

1893-94.....	47.6	1900-01.....	44.0
1894-95.....	46.1	1901-02.....	45.7
1895-96.....	45.7	1902-03.....	46.0
1896-97.....	46.4	1903-04.....	46.8
1897-98.....	45.8	1904-05.....	46.8
1898-99.....	44.7	1905-06.....	46.5
1899-1900.....	44.0		

Few names have been more widely known to American high-school teachers and scholars than that of Albert Harkness, who died last May. He had been professor of the Greek language and literature at Brown University since 1855. His books were characterized by so much greater clarity and simplicity than most which had preceded that they were almost universally regarded as good books "to teach." They were a real and valuable service to education.

A special circular has been issued by Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City, which contains announcement of the Department of Physical Education and an address by Dr. Abraham Jacobi, entitled, "The Prevention of Tuberculosis in School Children." This circular will be sent gratis on application to the secretary of Teachers College. *The Review* wishes that every teacher and superintendent would read Dr. Jacobi's address.